

AMENDMENT

Please enter the following amendments:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, line 8, insert:

-- RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 09/375,615, now U.S. Patent No. _____, filed August 17, 1999. --

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-9 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 10-23 as follows:

- 10. A catalyst structure, comprising:
- (a) a first porous structure comprising a first pore surface area and a first pore size of at least 0.1 μm ;
 - (b) a buffer layer upon the first pore surface area;
 - (c) a porous interfacial layer comprising spinel with a second pore surface area and a second pore size less than the first pore size; the porous interfacial layer having a thickness less than 4 mm, disposed on the buffer layer;
 - (d) a steam reforming catalyst selected from the group consisting of rhodium, iridium, nickel, palladium, platinum, carbide of group IVb and combinations thereof.